

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6653

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO USMISSION NATO, USMISSION
GENEVA, MOSCOW, USDEL MBFR, AND ALL NATO CAPITALS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO PARM MNUC GW

SUBJECT: ERW: FURTHER ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS

REFS: (A) STATE 61674; (B) BONN 3785 (BOTH NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: ON MARCH 9, THE EMBASSY CARRIED OUT THE
INSTRUCTIONS IN REF (A). THE FOREIGN OFFICE (RUTH)
INDICATED THAT ERW LINKAGE TO MBFR WOULD PROBABLY NOT
BE PUSHED BY THE FRG, ALTHOUGH IT WAS TECHNICALLY STILL
IN THE RUNNING. THE FRG WAS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING THE
SS-20 LINKAGE, PLUS A THIRD OPTION -- A POSSIBLE OFFER,
OUTSIDE MBFR, OF ERW NON-DEPLOYMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR
SUBSTANTIAL WARSAW PACT TANK REDUCTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MARCH 10, THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR CARRIED OUT THE
INSTRUCTIONS IN PARA ONE OF REF (A), DEALING WITH
AMBASSADOR RUTH SINCE BLECH WAS NOT AVAILABLE. RUTH
WILL PASS THE POINTS MADE, AND THE NON-PAPER, TO BLECH,
VAN WELL AND GENSCHER.

2. RUTH SAID THE FRG WAS STILL IN THE PROCESS OF
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CONSIDERING THREE OPTIONS FOR ERW LINKAGE: (A) TO
THE SS-20; (2) TO MBFR; AND (3) TO A POSSIBLE SEPARATE
OFFER OF ERW NON-DEPLOYMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR SUBSTANTIAL
WARSAW PACT TANK REDUCTIONS IN AN AREA "LARGER THAN THE
NGA." RUTH SAID HE COULD NOT YET ELABORATE IN DETAIL
ON THIS THIRD OPTION, BUT MADE IT CLEAR THAT A REDUCTION
OF THOUSANDS OF TANKS WOULD BE ENVISIONED.

3. RUTH CLEARLY HAS A STRONG BIAS AGAINST INTRODUCING ERW INTO THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS FOR ESSENTIALLY THE SAME REASONS MENTIONED IN REF (A). IN FACT, HE SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE "FAIRLY EASY TO DISPENSE WITH" THE MBFR OPTION WITHIN THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT. NOT ONLY WOULD THIS OPTION BE TOO TIME CONSUMING; BY INTRODUCING A QUALITATIVE ASPECT INTO MBFR IT COULD TEND TO EMPHASIZE THE KIND OF "SPECIAL REDUCTIONS ZONE" CONCEPT WHICH WE ALL WISH TO AVOID.

4. HOWEVER, RUTH SAW THE THIRD OPTION MENTIONED IN PARA TWO ABOVE AS VERY MUCH IN THE RUNNING. HE SAID HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING TO WHAT EXTENT WASHINGTON HAD CONSIDERED SUCH A POSSIBILITY.

5. IN CONCLUSION, RUTH SAID THE FRG WOULD OF COURSE STUDY CAREFULLY OUR NON-PAPER AND THE POINTS WHICH WE HAD MADE ORALLY, AND THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE, PROBABLY BLECH, MIGHT PASS ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS TO US IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

6. DURING OUR READING OF THE TALKING POINTS, RUTH QUESTIONED THE STATEMENT THAT FRG PERMREP PAULS HAD "ANNOUNCED FRG SUPPORT" FOR OUR THREE PART APPROACH. RUTH SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT BE CERTAIN, HE
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HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT PAULS' STATEMENT HAD BEEN VERY GENERAL -- SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT THAT THE US APPROACH WAS A "VERY HELPFUL" BASIS FOR ALLIANCE WORK ON THE ERW QUESTION (SEE REF B).

7. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE DEPARTMENT INFORM US WHAT, IF ANYTHING, IT WISHES US TO SAY TO THE GERMANS REGARDING THE THIRD OPTION IN PARA 2 ABOVE.
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